

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



**DEATH WEARS
THREE FACES!**



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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

THE STORY OF WAR-YORE



"I HAVE CHOSEN TO LEAVE THE PAST OF SMITH'S AGENCY, AND THE OTHERS HAVE FOLLOWED ME INTO A NEW FUTURE..."

"...BUT I FEAR TOO MANY SEEDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLANTED, SOME YET TO MATURE... FOR THE CHOICE TO MATTER."

DOUG MOENCH
STORY

JIM CRAIG
ART

JOHN TARTAG
INKS

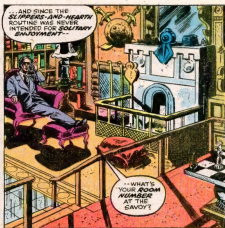
JOE ROSEN
LETTERS

PHIL RAGHE
COLORS

A. GOODWIN
EDITOR

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be. And I believe that once I put you on that road to a better, more healthy, vigorous body, you'll want to try other Weider products, too. Like my muscle building food supplements, vitamins and minerals. Or the world famous Weider training equipment. And that's why I'm sending you all these materials at lower than my raw manufacturing, printing and distributing costs. At not one penny profit.

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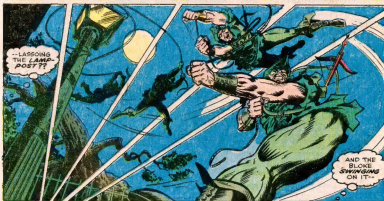
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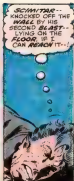
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COULD STAND AGAINST
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SCHMITZ--
KNOCKED OFF THE
WALL BY HIS
SECOND BEAST--
LYING ON THE
FLOOR, IF I
CAN REACH IT--!!



LEIKO
GAVE ME
THE BLADES--
PURELY FOR
DECORATION...



...BUT
NOW THAT
THE SWORD
HAS BEEN
BROKEN...



--PERHAPS
SOMETHING
GOOD'LL
COME OF OUR
RELATIONSH--

BOTH
HANDS
BURNED
NOW--! HURTS
LIKE THE
DEVIL!



--AWAY
FROM ME--
TO GIVE ME
A SHOT AT
THE GUN!



BUT I'VE
GOT TO
BEAR THE
PAIN, FORCE
HIM BACK--



NOW...THERE'S
NO WAY HE CAN
CROSS THE ROOM
FASTER THAN MY
BULLET CAN...



...AND IT
LOOKS LIKE
HE AGREES IT.

HE'S CERTAINLY
FAMILIAR WITH
THE BETTER
PART OF
VACOR. I'LL
GIVE HIM
THAT MUCH.

BLASH



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"LEIKO RETURNS..."

DINNER SHOULD BE *SUPERB*, SHANG-CHI. FIND ANY MUSIC YOU LIKE?

YES...



...HER MOVEMENTS RECALLING THE WORDS... SHE IS LIKE A CAT IN THE DARK AND THEN SHE IS THE DARKNESS...

...THIS ONE.

FLEETWOOD
MAC HMT
WHICH CUTS
RHIANNON?



NO, THE ONE WITH *THESE WORDS*: "YOU CAN TAKE ME TO THE PARADISE, AND THEN AGAIN YOU CAN BE COLD AS ICE I'M OVER MY HEAD BUT IT SURE FEELS NICE..."

THOSE WORDS, LEIKO, AND THE SEQUENCE OF SOUNDS IN WHICH THEY ARE *SUNG*... COMING WELL...

...TO MIRROR MY OWN FEELINGS... NOW.

SHANG-CHI I... I'M TOUCHED I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE LEARNING TO BE... ROMANTIC.



"I AM LEARNING..."

MMMM...

WELL IF THIS IS THE SORT OF EFFECT MUSIC HAS ON YOU... LET'S LOOK FORWARD TO FLEETWOOD MAC'S NEXT LP.

BUT IN THE MEANTIME SHANG-CHI I THOUGHT WE MIGHT VISIT THE HOSPITAL... TO SEE HOW MISS GUNVILLE IS COMING ALONG.

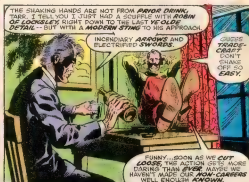
"MANY THINGS."

"YES... I HAVE THOUGHT OF HER TODAY THE ONLY INNOCENT ONE IN SMITH'S OFFICE... WHEN THE BULLET SINGLED HER OUT."



ROBIN HOOD--?

YOU WERE SPOSED TO WAIT 'TIL YOU GOT **HERE** BEFORE CRACKIN' THE **BOTTLE**, RESTON.



THE SLAKING HANDS ARE NOT FROM **PRIOR DRINK**, TARR. I TELL YOU I JUST HAD A SCUFFLE WITH **ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY**, RIGHT DOWN TO THE **LAST YE OLDE DETAIL**-- BUT WITH A **MODERN STING** TO HIS APPROACH.

INCREDIARY **ARROWS** AND ELECTRIFIED **SWORDS**.

GUDES **TRADE-CRAFT** DON'T CHASE OFF SO **EASY**.

FUNNY...SOON AS WE **CUT LOOSE**, THE ACTION GETS MORE **DARING** THAN **EVER** MAYBE WE HAVEN'T MADE OUR **NON-CAREERS** WELL ENOUGH **KNOWN**.



NOW ABOUT A **DISCLAIMER NOTICE** IN THE **DAILY MAIL**: LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL HENCEFORWARD THAT **CLIVE RESTON** AND **BLACK JACK TARR** HAVE **RETIRED** FROM THE **SPY BUSINESS** AND WISH NO FURTHER INVOLVEMENT IN **SAME**...

...SO CALL OFF THE **BLOODY DOGS** AND LET US GROW OLD IN **PEACE** **RAISING BEES** AND **CHASING BIRDS**.

NO, WE'VE GOT TO REVIEW ALL OUR PAST **UNDOVELED CASES** AS WELL AS THE **OUTSTANDING CURRENT ONES**--THE **FEW** WE WERE INVESTIGATING BEFORE THE **FU MANCHU BUSINESS** BLEW UP...



THEN AGAIN, IT **COULD** BE SOMEONE WITH A **TASTE** FOR **REVENGE** OUT OF THE **CLOSED FILES**...

...SOMEONE WHO'S **SLIPPED FREE** OF THE **BAR**, OR A **FRIEND** OF SOMEONE WHO'S STILL **BEHIND BARS**--OR **SIX FEET UNDER** WITH ONE OF MY **BULLETS** IN HIS **BELLY**.



GOTTA ADMIT WE'VE MADE **ENEMIES** IN OUR TIME, BUT NOW THAT WE'VE OFFICIALLY **QUIT**, WE'VE EVERY RIGHT TO **WASH OUR HANDS** OF IT...

...ONLY THIS **ROBIN HOOD** BLUCKE PROBABLY WON'T LET YOU WASH **CLEAN**, RESTON, WHICH LEAVES **ONE OPTION**: WE CAN ASK **MS-6** FOR **PROTECTION**.



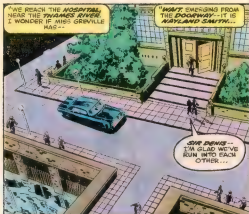
ALL RIGHT, TARR, YOU'VE **MADE** YOUR POINT.

WE'RE THE **BEST AGENTS** MS-6 HAD AND YOU **KNOW** IT, SO **WHO** BABY-SITS THE **BABY-SITTER**?



WE DO. FIRST STOP: **SONG**.

IF IT'S SOMEONE **RECENT**, **WU** AND THE **CHINAMAN** COULD BE **TARGETS** AS WELL.



"WE REACH THE HOSPITAL,
NEAR THE THAMES RIVER.
I WONDER IF MISS GREVILLE
HAS --"

"HWT, EMERGING FROM
THE DOORWAY--IT IS
RAYLAND SMITH..."

"SIR DENIS--
I'M GLAD WE'VE
RUN INTO EACH
OTHER..."



"I'VE BEEN WANTING TO
SPEAK WITH YOU TO
EXPLAIN WHY..."

"...WHY IT HAD
TO BE LIKE THIS..."

"HE DOES NOT **HWT** HER WORDS,
WALKING PAST QUICKLY, AGONYING
US, HIS FACE **BITTER** WITH ANGER."



"TELL ME,
SHANG-CHI--
EXPLAIN IT TO
ME... WHY DOES
IT HAVE TO BE
LIKE... THIS?"

"COME LEIKO, HIS CAR
IS LEAVING, AND WE
ARE NOT HERE TO VISIT
HIM."



"BUT AS WE TURN BACK
TO THE DOOR..."

"--IT'S
POWELL
RELEASING
GAS ON
IMPACT..."

"TURN--BOTH
OF YOU--AND
FACE ME!"

"FACE THE
HUN!"

"FACE ATTILA--
CHIEFTAIN OF THE
MONGOL HORDES
WHICH COVER
THE PLAINS LIKE A BLACK
CLOUD OF DEATH!"

"A
DAGGER--?"

"DO NOT
BREATHE
LEIKO--
TRY TO--"

"FACE ME--AND KNOW
THAT I HAVE BROUGHT THE
CLOUD TO YOU!"

THE TIME HAS COME FOR...

STAR WARS

MARVEL'S OWN ADAPTATION OF
THE GREAT NEW SPACE-FANTASY
FILM BY GEORGE LUCAS
(RELEASED BY
TWENTIETH-CENTURY FOX)

Script by: **ROY THOMAS**
Art by: **HOWARD CHAYKIN**

**LUKE
SKYWALKER!**

IS COMING--
'AND THE COUNTDOWN
STARTS NOW!!



AT LAST!

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The CROWNING
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EDGAR RICE
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Tarzan

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ROY THOMAS
&
JOHN BUSCEMA

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EPICS FROM THE
HOUSE OF IDEAS!
2ND ISSUE ON
SALE
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26TH

John Carter OF MARS

BY
MARY WOLFMAN
&
GIL KANE

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

56 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. NYC 10022

Due to an unprecedented volume of print-deserving mail (even for MASTER OF KUNG FU), we're gonna dispense with our usual individual replies this time and jump right into a miracle...

Dear Doug:

You were right. Issue #50 is pretty amazing, and completely different. You managed to create an extremely high level of character depth in Fu Manchu while maintaining the usual high standard in the other roles. Of course, I was still glad to see Fu Manchu's fade-out, but even with your build-up of promise I was surprised at the sensitive rendering.

The most significant panel is the confrontation in which Shang-Chi holds his sword to Fu Manchu's throat; this epitomizes the classic juxtaposition inherent in this book since its inception, and this fine six-part series seems to close the initial chapter of Shang-Chi's adult life. [The solution by pistol instead of fist is a master touch, and reminds me of the Faulkner quote repeated so often by Harlan Ellison as one of his own guidelines, to the effect that nothing is worth writing about except "the human heart in conflict with itself." A fine prelude to a dignified ending.

Again, the portrayal of Fu Manchu was indeed sympathetic, the most unique rendering of any master villain since the origin of Doctor Doom, and you didn't sacrifice the characterization either. Doug, you caught me off-stride—an experience to which I'm not accustomed. Thank you for "The Dreamlayer."

To Paul: I'm extremely sorry to see you go. And in '73, I'd have gorged golfballs before admitting I might ever say that.

Bill Wu
101 N. Ingalls St.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Missives to the Master:

Moench, you're brilliant. This current epic isn't being written; it's being woven with the intricacy of a delicate spider's web. It started way back in issue #39, where we received a glimpse of things to come through some torn-up documents floating on the water of a Hong Kong harbor. Then the story continued, with the readers still unknowing witnesses to the unfolding of a masterpiece, with the near deaths of two major characters and the unveiling of the "Mole" as Peter.

Then we are finally launched into the anxiously awaited Fu Manchu epic—only to realize we've already been involved in it for months. I say again, Moench: You're brilliant. The character interactions have been superb; you've delved into the personalities and inner thoughts of every character in the cast—including Lamer, who never even narrated his own issue. Which brings me to perhaps the most important point of the entire series: Lamer's death. The sequence was excellent and innovative; Jennie was pictured as only a man delirious with love and grief could have seen her. The man's torment burned from the page. And in the second and third panels of page 31, Lamer's appearance was truly startling. Excellent work, Gulacy. Keep it up.

Jeff Rogers
540 Linden St.
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Dear Doug and Paul,
My God!

Is there any chance of MASTER OF KUNG FU going weekly?

Mich Paul
R.R. #1
Rockland, Ontario K0A 3A0

Dear Doug and Paul,

Perhaps the most worthwhile project undertaken by Marvel Comics in all of 1976 is the six-part epic that concluded in

MASTER OF KUNG FU #50. The book had become much more than your run-of-the-mill martial arts diatribe long before the beginning of this latest Fu Manchu saga, but once this splendid story got into high gear, it became the finest comic to be found anywhere.

Here's a title that's broken all the rules and made us like it. I don't know if anybody really noticed it or not, but there was virtually no strictly kung fu action in "The Dreamlayer." Time was when Doug Moench would've been hung from the highest yardarm in the Brooklyn Navy Yard for such blasphemy—but with all the tension, excitement, and other martial arts (i.e. samurai) action offered in #50, I doubt if anyone missed a few extra kicks and punches. I certainly didn't. Then, too, there are the unheard-of developments in the book's supporting cast. To wit: They all have personalities. They don't just stand around and react to the hero; they're heroes themselves. Now everyone knows that this just can't happen, that if it's attempted the personality of the hero will be diminished to the status of a secondary character in his own title. Sure! Just like the works of Shakespeare were actually written by a committee and the George Foreman/Muhammad Ali fight in Zaire was fixed.

And, while I'm tossing bouquets, let's throw one in the direction of Paul Gulacy, whose artwork was just as important to this masterpiece as was Doug's prose. Powerful, dynamic, often shocking in its finely crafted details of violent encounters between opposing factions, all this (and considerably more) describes Paul's work. He is responsible not only for the cinematic flow that has highlighted each issue of MOKF for the last two years, but also for the raw beauty of visual life he's given to Doug's ideas.

What's next for the son-of-Fu Manchu? Only the future will tell. But if the past is any indication, it's definitely something to look forward to.

Ed Via
1648 Dean Road
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

Dear Doug,

The latest issue of my publication, COMIC MEDIA NEWS, contains the results of our annual awards poll. This time, I'm very pleased to say, you have been voted Best Comic Book Writer of 1976. On the behalf of everyone involved in the poll (including, I might add, many of Britain's best writers and artists) I'm sending you our heartfelt congratulations. And on a personal note, I would like to thank you for providing me with some of the most entertaining and worthwhile reading in 1976. I look forward to more of the same in 1977.

Richard Burton
Editor & Publisher
COMIC MEDIA NEWS

Thanks, Richard, for letting us beam so brightly. And we've got to add that not only did Doug cap the Best Writer award, but none other than Fearless Paul Gulacy walked away with the Best Penciler of the Year award—and by an overwhelming majority of votes, no less. Furthermore, to make the sweep incredibly complete, MASTER OF KUNG FU (in a tie with CONAN) was democratically deemed the Best Adventure Book of the Year. We're deeply honored, to say the least, and we again thank Richard and his staff most sincerely. (Such good news deserves a plug, we say, so if you'd like to glom a truly fine fanzine, send an international money order in the amount of 2 pounds—for a five-issue subscription—to: Richard Burton, COMIC MEDIA NEWS, 22 Woodhaw, Egham, Surrey TW20 8AP, ENGLAND.)

Which leaves us only enough room for our customary closing of...be good.

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HULK SMASH!

BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER HULK HAS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT LATEST FOOM!



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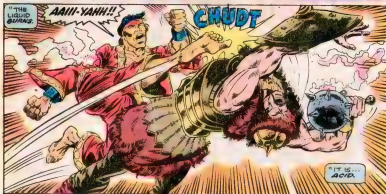
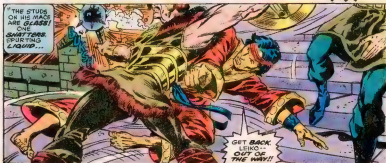
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LENGO THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO...

THERE IS, SHANG. AND THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ARGUE ROLES.



I AM ATTILA THE HUN-- EXALTED MESSENGER OF YOUR DEATHS!



PERHAPS... YOU ARE RIGHT.

"HE BACKS AWAY FROM US ONTO THE BRIDGE, NOT IN RETREAT-- BUT WITH THE WISDOM OF A HUNSMAN'S INSTINCT, HE SEEMS TO LIMIT THE AVENUES OF ATTACK TO ONE, THUS PROTECTING HIS BACK."



FACE ME, FACE DEATH.

"WE EMPLOY THE SINGLE AVENUE OPEN TO US."



KYAAH!!

"WE ATTACK."

"HE GREET'S US WITH A FURY BORN OF MADNESS, BUT DISCIPLINED BY SKILL-- AND EXTENDED IN HIS RAGE--"



"I FALL INTO A CROUCH, SPINNING--"

"--TO RISE AND STRIKE FROM BEHIND..."

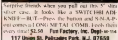


WAK

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FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-158741) (P)
SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA
RE: NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, 1/11/68

.....

and you'll wish the
the bourgeoisie. Can
the bourgeoisie, you-
in 1984, with any

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[illegible]

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"SHE EVADES HIS SECOND SWING NOW... BUT THIS TIME, PERHAPS, THE HAZE FINDS ITS **TRUE** TARGET."



"A CLOUD OF GAS SEETHES FROM THE **SHATTERED** STUPE..."

"AND LEIKO FALLS INSIDE THAT CLOUD."



UHHH...



"BUT IS SHE MERELY **UN-CONSCIOUS**...?"

"OR IS SHE...?"

HE'S LATE. I DON'T LIKE IT. I TELL YOU, WHEN WAS HE **DUE**?

OH, ABOUT A QUARTER-HOUR AGO, WHICH MEANS--



--IT'S TIME TO OPEN THE **DOOR** AND LET HIM IN.



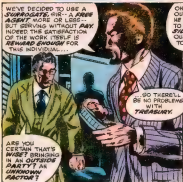
WHAT AN ORDEAL **FINDING** THIS PLACE, SAFE HOUSES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE **REMOTE**, GOD KNOWS, BUT THIS IS ABSOLUTELY **RIDICULOUS**.



WELL, GET **ON** WITH IT. WHAT **STEPS** HAVE YOU TAKEN? I HAVEN'T GOT **ALL DAY**.

YES, SIR.

WE'VE DECIDED TO USE A **SURROGATE**, SIR-- A **FREE AGENT** MORE OR LESS-- BUT SERVING WITHOUT **PAY**. INDEED THE SATISFACTION OF THE WORK ITSELF IS **REWARD ENOUGH** FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL....



...SO THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEMS WITH **TREASURY**.

ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT'S **WISE**? BRINGING IN AN **OUTSIDE PARTY**? AN **UNKNOWN FACTOR**?

OH, HE'S NOT **QUITE** FROM THE OUTSIDE, SIR, BUT NEITHER IS HE IN A POSITION OR CONDITION TO JEOPARDIZE US FROM THE **INSIDE**. BESIDES, WE DECIDED THAT OUR **DIRECT INVOLVEMENT** NOT TO MENTION **YOUR** WOULD BE **LESS WISE**.



THE **METHODICAL ASSASSINATION** OF FOUR PRIME **BRITISH AGENTS** WILL NOT BE TAKEN **LIGHTLY**--



"AS YOU WILL **KNOW**, SIR."



BUT UNTIL RECENTLY HE HUNGERS WAS VERY TIMID--A FANCY OFFICE WORKER TYPE, OVERWEIGHT, NON-VIOLENT AND THIS DEEMED A PRIME SUBJECT FOR OUR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO PRODUCE--



--THE PERFECT OPTIMUM-DANGER OPERATIVE, BUT HE THEN EMBARKED ON INDEPENDENT PSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH, AS WELL AS RIGOROUS PHYSICAL TRAINING. OUR AH, BRAINWASHING MAY HAVE ALREADY NEEDED HIM OVER THE EDGE.



INDEED, IN KEEPING WITH HIS INTERESTS, HE SCHIZO-PHENICALLY ADOPTED THE GUIDES OF VARIOUS HISTORICAL PERSONAGES--ALL WARRIORS FROM THE "DAYS OF YORE" HENCE HIS CODE-NAME.



BUT EACH PERSONA IS SUPPLEMENTED BY ADVANCED WEAPONRY TECHNIQUES--A LASER-LANCE FOR EXAMPLE SUGGESTING THAT HE IS NOT COMPLETELY LOST IN THE PAST. IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT--



--HE SUBCONSCIOUSLY EMPLOYS THESE ALTERNATE PERSONALITIES AS A RELEASE FOR HIS OWN SUPPRESSED FANTASIES OF HEROISM.



SOUNDS SOMEWHAT UNSTABLE TO ME--COULD VERY WELL BLOW UP IN OUR FACES. HOW DOES YOUR ASSOCIATE FEEL?

PRECISELY WHY HE IS SO PERFECT IF SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG, WE SIMPLY DISAVOW EVERYTHING. IN A CHOICE BETWEEN US AND AN OBVIOUS MAD-MAN, WHOM WOULD YOU BELIEVE?



WELL, I'M NOT AT ALL SURE I LIKE IT BUT YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN. I DON'T EVEN WANT ANY MORE DETAILS--JUST RESULTS. AND REMEMBER, IF THIS DOES RUN APOCAL--



--I WILL BE FORCED TO DISAVOW YOU.

STAR
LEE
PRESENTS

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hey, gang—remember years ago when they started calling us "Marvel, the House of Ideas"? Remember how it was Marvel who brought you the first book-length continued stories—and the first real movie-type screen credits so that you'd get to know our writers, artists, letterers, colorists, and editors? Remember how we started the much-copied Bullpen Bulletins page—the ol' Soapbox column—and the nutty little footnotes throughout our mags? Remember how we created a whole new wave of superheroes for you—lovers the great FANTASTIC FOUR, to HULK, and SPIDER-MAN, THOR, and all the others—as well as CONAN, America's first sword-and-sorcery smash hit—HOWARD THE DUCK, our answer to unbridled sanity—the best-selling Origins books, ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, SON OF ORIGINS, BRING ON THE BAD GUYS, and the soon-to-be-published SUPER WOMEN—and all the other outrageously offbeat concoctions which warm the cockles of your grateful hearts! Okay, that's all. I just wanted to make sure you didn't forget! And now, more about one of our newest and nuttiest newbies coming your way—and this will really blow your mind! We told you a little bit about it a couple of issues back, but I'm bustin' to hit you with a few more teasers. I'm talkin', natch, about our great new KISS magazine—the one which features a book-length comic strip starring the indelible rock group, Kiss—plus a whole kaboodle of superheroes and villains co-mingled to boggle your brains! And get this—it's a comic book, but it's deluxe, full-size magazine as well! It'll set you back a buck-fifty—and it's the greatest bargain you'll get all year! Also—and this is the real glitzy part—it will launch the most unusual, most unbelievable start ever pulled off in any publication! And you won't have to take our word for it—it'll be in newspapers, and on TV from coast to coast! So, stay tuned, Believer. The House of Ideas is zooming along, and—this is the immortal words of Irving Berlin—"Mous verrons on que nous sommes!"

Excellent!

Stan

ITEM! To emphasize what Stan was saying in the Soapbox about the House of Ideas zooming along, let's kick off this column with a few words about another new title we're springing on you this month... STAR WARS! If that sounds familiar, it might be because we've plugged it a bit in the past, but a much bigger bet is that you've been hearing about the multi-million dollar, super science-fiction film from Twentieth Century Fox upon which

our comic is based. STAR WARS is an epic of the far-flung future where intergalactic war and intrigue run rampant. It was written and directed by GEORGE LUCAS, the man who gave us AMERICAN GRAFFITI and THX-1138, and features ALEC GUINNESS and PETER CUSHING, with MARK HAMILL as the interstellar sage's hero, LUKE SKYWALKER. With that kind of talent, you know this is going to be a big one. To do it justice in graphic story format, Mr. Lucas and company handpicked Marvel for the awesome adaptation task, shingling out Rascally ROY THOMAS as writer/illustrator and Wholesome HOWARD CHAYKIN as artist. After the premiere issue, Surfer STEVE LITTAUHA will be joining the team as inker. To guarantee that the power and scope of the original film are preserved, the adaptation is going to be done in six parts, one issue per month. Don't miss any of them. We think it's going to be one of the most enthralling half-years you ever spent.

ITEM! Long before they became the accomplished comic book professionals they now are, Lively LEN WEIN and Marvelous MARY WOLFGANG were accomplished comic book fans. As such, they often collaborated on writing projects. Now, with NOVA #12 and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #171, they're back at it again. Sort of. You see, Mary plotted his Nova story as the first half of a crossover with Spider. It's a murder mystery complete with six or so suspects and a masked supervillain who might be any of them! Just to keep things interesting for his old friend and fellow writer/artist, Mary refused to reveal the mystery's solution and instead left Len to figure it out as he wrote his Spider-Man section of the story. Did the Lively One come through? We'll find out next month when the two books go on sale. Pick up both of them and pit your deductive abilities against the devious plotting devices of Wolfman and Wein! And let us if you didn't know! no fair peeking at that last page!

ITEM! This month, the bullpen sheds a collective tear of farewell for Beaming BETH BLECKLEY, who's giving up the glitz and glamor of our editorial department for the hallowed halls of higher education as she goes back to college to complete her degree. Luckily, there's a gain to go with this loss, namely Beth's radiant replacement, Gentle JO DUFFY. Welcome aboard, Ms. D! And while we're handing out the welcomes, let's extend one to Memorable MARTHA CONWAY who recently joined us as secretary to some other than our smiling leader, OF STAN THE MAN himself! Then, there's Jubilant JOHN ROMITA Jr., who's given up freelance status to wield pencil, pen, and brush for us on staff, aiding an overworked Jumping JOHN TARTAGLIONE with the myriad art changes and corrections that pop up daily when you're putting out a page of comic mag like we are. Glad to have you, Johnny. Now, about those 41 panels where the wings were left off Nighthawk's helmet...

ITEM! A few months ago, Stan made mention of the new hero we'd created especially for our British comics division... namely, CAPTAIN! BRITAIN. He also said that we'd try to find a

way to give all you regular stereotyped readers a look at him as well, perhaps by reprinting some of his adventures. Well, merry Marvel, being the very soul of generosity, has decided to do something even better than that. Characteristic CHRIS CLAREMONT—who helped originate the Captain Britain character—is also resident scribe for MARVEL TEAM-UP, and he came up with the novel notion of using the good Captain as one of the guests Spidey (You all knew Spider-Man is in TEAM-UP, didn't you?) teams with. That tickled our fancy no end. So now, just as soon as the Characteristic One and ace artist Jocular JOHN BYRNE can write and draw the issue, you will be witness to the first full-fledged appearance in the colonies of the superhero sensation of the British Isles. But, be warned! Captain Britain could make you want to give up Big Macs for fish and chips!



ITEM! Let's close with a preview of what will be going on in some of our big Summer Annuals (and if this seems too early, remember the first three of them go on sale in May). IRON MAN will be teaming with the CHAMPIONS, The AVENGERS will soar into outer space to join WARLOCK and CAPTAIN MARVEL in a death-duel with THANOS (and if you guessed from that last that a certain Brawler JIM STARLIN might be writing, drawing, and nose-rendering this epic, consider yourself an honorary Bullpenner), and HOWARD THE DUCK will share pages and billing with MAN-THING! Then there's a round-robin INVADERS saga in which Rascally ROY THOMAS has recruited many of the original Golden Age artists to draw new stories of the Invaders members whose adventures they handled back in colorful Roy age of superheroes. As you can see, we're working hard to make all of this year's annuals the most unique and memorable ever! Don't disappoint us by missing any of them, hear?

SPIDER-MAN AND MADAM WEB!



EVERYONE THINKS I'M TO BLAME. I'M TIRED OF RUNNING FROM THE COPS. BUT I MUST GET THROUGH AND SAVE THE HARBOR.



I LOVED SPIDER-MAN, BUT HE REJECTED ME--ME, MADAM WEB!! SO--MY REVENGE--I'LL MAKE EVERYONE BLAME HIM FOR TANGLING THE HARBOR.

SPIDER-MAN, MY ONLY LOVE, COME WITH ME AND LET'S RUN AWAY.



MADAM WEB!... THAT LOVE-CRAZED FEND!

OH! FOR THAT--I'D CLEAR UP THE OCEAN--THE WORLD--ANYTHING--

WELL--WHAT IF I GIVE YOU A WHOLE BUNCH OF DELICIOUS HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES INSTEAD? WOULD YOU CLEAR THE HARBOR AND MY GOOD NAME?

--OH-- GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE--CREAMED FILLING!



FIRST I LOVE SPIDER-MAN, THEN HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES! WHAT A TANGLED WEB!

SHE IS SUCH A LOYAL ADMIRER OF MINE!

YAAAY! SPIDER-MAN! YAAAY! TWINKIES CAKES!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES!



"HE HAS LUNGED FROM BEHIND HOPEING MY CONCERN WOULD DROWN ALL OTHER ANXIETIES FALLING IN TWIS, HE HAS NEVERTHESS FORCED ME ANGRY FROM LENO'S FORM...

I DO NOT KNOW YOUR TRUE NAME, BUT IF YOU HAVE INCURED THAT WOUND, I DO NOT CARE WHO--



"I STRIKE IN AND-SENTENCE DELIBERATELY... WHILE HE AWAKTS A COMPLETION WHICH WILL NEVER COME.

"BUT WAIT! THE CENTER OF HIS SHIELD--SPINNING--PROJECTING OUTWARD...



"EVAIDING IT WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT, BUT...



"BEHIND ME... INNOCENT PEOPLE...



"THE WISSE WILL ASE ON... STRIKING ONE OF THEM!



"THERE IS ONLY ONE CHANCE



"PRECIOUS TIME HAS BEEN LOST! I MUST WASTE NO MORE IN RETURNING TO--



"...THE BRIDGE.

LEINO...

WHERE IS...
LEINO--?



"GONE...
VANISHED...
LIKE A
CAT INTO
DARKNESS..."

"AND WITH HER HAS GONE... ATTILA.



"FEAR HAS
FOLLOWED ME TO
THIS DOORSTEP
FOR IF SHE IS NOT
HERE--"

"WAIT--THE SOUND
OF VOICES..."



"...INSIDE!"



TARR--AND RESTON--/ WHAT ARE
YOU... DOING HERE?

CAME LOOKIN' FOR YOU
AND WUL. GOT BAD NEWS
FOR YA. AND IF YOU'LL
QUIT BUSTIN' DOWN
DOORS, WE'LL--

THEN LEINO
IS NOT HERE...
AS I FEARED?



NO, OF
COURSE
SHE'S NOT
HERE, CNL.

DON'T YOU
KNOW WHERE
SHE IS--?

NO...



...BUT I KNOW WHAT HAS
HAPPENED TO HER. SHE HAS
BEEN ABDUCTED...OR SLAIN...
BY A MADMAN...CALLING
HIMSELF...ATTILA...

ATTILA--? THAT CARES
IF RESTON, WHETHER WE
LIKE IT OR NOT, WAR'S
JUST BEEN DECLARED
ON ALL OF US--

--BY THE MOST BIZARRE
ARMY EVER SPT
OUTTA HISTORY!

"...NO..."

**NEXT
ISSUE:**

MORE ACTION. CONFLICT. TENSION. AND MYSTERY AS THE CONTINUING STORY
OF WAR-YORE SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR! IT'S ALL IN THE STUNNINGLY STRANGE
SECOND EPISODE WHEN WE PONDER--

OF WARRIORS PAST AND BATTLES PRESENT!

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HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED

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J. Johnson

"I was a skinny weakling when I enrolled, now I've gained 30 pounds in just 45 days. I am truly amazed, I'm going to be dynamite on the beach."
B. Abbott

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1 1/2" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!"
D. Roberts

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscles. It's amazing. I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day."
P. Williams

"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 8 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do."
B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
B. Robinson

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CASTING
REEL

PUSH BUTTON
CASTING
ANTI REVERSE
NO BACKLASH

NEW! SUPER "88"
AUTOMATIC
STAR DRAG
PINCAST
REEL

SAFETY
STOP
BAGG
HOLD
SWITCH

CRAZY LURES
SELECTED FROM
OUR COLLECTION OF
POPULAR FAVORITES

COMPLETE! NOTHING ELSE TO BUY!

SELECTED FOR YOU BY EXPERTS. This choice fish-getting tackle, used by thousands throughout the United States and Canada. Each item carefully chosen—everything you need for all types of fishing. Deadly lures that are all-time favorites. A veteran angler or an occasional fisherman can be proud of this precision-built kit. You can go fishing at once. Compare! You may not find a bargain like this anywhere.

LOOK! YOU GET EVERYTHING SHOWN. Super "88" Pin Cast Reel • Comet X3C Bass Cast Reel • Argosy Direct Drive Trolling Reel • 8 ft. 3 pc. Fiber Glass Spin Cast Rod • 6 ft. Fiber Glass Bass Cast Rod • 3 ft. 6 pc. Fiber Glass Trolling Rod • 66 proven Deadly Lures • 8 pc. Furnished Line • Floating Tackle Box with removable trays • Fish Scale • 28 pc. Popping Lure Kit • Dip Net, Stringer, Split Shot, Clincher Snipers, Snap Burets, Assorted Hooks, Snooded Hooks, 3 Plastic Floats, 8 — 3 way Burets, 8 Snaps, 12 — 28" Leader Strands (88 Feet), and complete instructions. 411 pieces in all.

Nireshk DISCOUNT SALES

CHICAGO, ILL. 60606 • A Division of Robert Kahn Enterprises, Inc.

26th
Serving over
25 million
customers
NATIONWIDE

FISHING FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

ALL 3 OUTFITS

\$1295

YOU GET EVERYTHING
SHOWN IN THIS AD!
Money-Back Guaranteed

50 NATURAL BAIT LURES
SURE SHOT ACTION WITH SHRIMP,
MINNOWS, GRASSHOPPERS, MAYFLIES,
BUMBLEBEES, CRICKETS, LEECHES

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

NIRESHK DISCOUNT SALES DEPT. F7-8
210 S. DESPLAINES, CHICAGO, ILL. 60606

Order Today! If you are not 100% pleased, we'll refund your purchase price promptly!

FREE TACKLE BOX IS YOURS TO KEEP REGARDLESS.

YES! Please rush the 3 complete fishing outfits (411 pieces) — I am enclosing \$12.95 plus \$2 for postage and handling.

in residents add 1% sales tax

Send C.O.D. I enclose \$2 down

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TO CANADA \$19.95—includes postage and duty.

SPALDING

PRESENTS

STREET BALL

WITH RICK BARRY AND DR. J!

HEY LOOK! IT'S RICK BARRY AND DR. J!!



GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE PLAYING WITH A SPALDING RUBBER BALL LIKE I GREW UP WITH.

YEAH, THOSE VINYL BALLS ARE JUST TOO SLICK!



AW, WHAT DIFFERENCE CAN THE BALL MAKE?



MY MAN, FOR REAL BALL HANDLING, YOU NEED THAT

...SPALDING TOUCH!!!



SLAM DUNK!

HE PLAYS UP IN THE LIGHTS!

WHAT MOVES!

NOW IT'S MY TURN, JULIUS!



A 30-FOOTER!!!

WHAT A MAGIC TOUCH!

YOU DON'T NEED MAGIC - JUST PRACTICE WITH A SPALDING AUTOGRAPH BALL. IT'S GOT A RUBBER COVER SO YOU CAN REALLY GET A GRIP ON IT.



I BELIEVE IT! I BELIEVE IT!!

"IF YOU WANT THE BALL WITH THE SURE-HANDED FEEL, LOOK FOR OUR SIGNATURES AT YOUR SPORTING GOODS DEALER. OTHER AUTOGRAPH BALLS ARE SIGNED BY WILT CHAMBERLAIN, 'PISTOL PETE' AND 'ERNIE D.'"

